

RECIDIVISM IN KENTUCKY 1993–1995

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Five thousand nine hundred thirty six (5,936) inmates were released in 1995 from adult institutions in Kentucky. One thousand nine hundred sixty two (1,962) or 33.1% of that number returned to prison within two years.

The data indicates the following:

- * The overall recidivism rate increased from 30.8% for inmates released in 1989 to 33.1% for inmates released in 1995.

- * Recidivism is highest among violent offenders, however the rate for drug offenders is climbing rapidly.

- * Inmates who were supervised after release returned at a much greater rate than those who were released by final discharge. i.e. unsupervised

- * Inmates were more likely to return to prison the first year following release than the second year.

- * Young people under the age of 30 returned at a higher rate than any group over that age.

- * Males returned to prison more often than females.

- * Higher percentage of black inmates recidivated than white.

- * Inmates released from maximum-security institutions returned at a higher rate than those released from any other type of institution.

PROFILE OF RELEASES

In 1993, Kentucky confined an average of 10,540 convicted felons.

By 1995 the average population increased to 11,779. They were divided into the following facilities:

TABLE 1: Population By Security Level

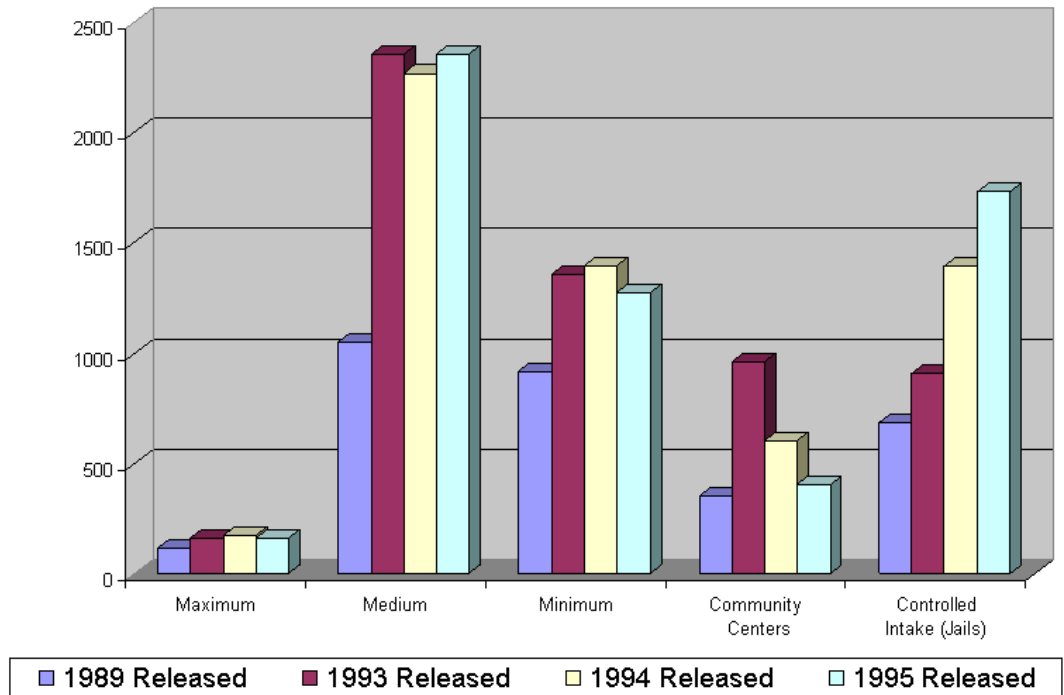
During this same period, 5,753 inmates were released in 1993, 5,864 in 1994 and 5,936 in 1995.

	1993	1994	1995
Maximum Security Institutions	798	806	802
Medium Security Institutions	6113	6297	6783
Minimum Security Institutions	1858	1618	2046
Community Centers	1304	1346	1616
Controlled Intake	467	429	532
Total	10540	10496	11779

TABLE 2: Inmates Released By Security Level

	Maximum	Medium	Minimum	Community Centers	Controlled Intake (Jails)
1989 Released	118	1053	915	357	690
1993 Released	162	2357	1357	964	913
1994 Released	174	2270	1400	604	1398
1995 Released	163	2354	1276	405	1738
1989 % Released	3.8%	33.6%	29.2%	11.4%	22.0%
1993 % Released	2.8%	40.9%	23.6%	16.8%	15.9%
1994 % Released	3.0%	38.8%	24.0%	10.3%	23.9%
1995 % Released	2.7%	39.7%	21.5%	6.8%	29.3%

Graph 1: Releases By Security Level 1989 - 1995



From a historical perspective the percent of inmates released from a medium institution increased over 11% from 1989 to 1995. In 1993, 537 (9.3%) of the releases were female and 5,216 (90.7%) were male. In 1994, 528 (9.2%) were female and 5,236 (90.8%) were male. In 1995, 623 (10.5%) were female and 5,313 (89.5%) were male. In 1993, 1,699 (29.7%) of the released were black and 4,044 (70.3%) were white. In 1994 the number was 1,846 (31.5%) black and 976 (67.8%) white. In 1995 the number of blacks had increased to 2,107 (35.7%) and 3,795 (64.3%) white. The remaining releases consisted of Hispanics, Asian Native American or Other Races.

Inmates released were serving sentences for following types of offenses.

TABLE 3: Inmates Released By Crime Type

	Violent	Sex	Drug	Weapon	Property	Other
1989 Released	785	142	437		1605	
1993 Released	1413	249	1351	57	2175	508
1994 Released	1485	288	1349	71	2128	540
1995 Released	1394	314	1559	66	2100	502
1989 % Released	25.5%	4.6%	14.2%		52.1%	3.6%
1993 % Released	24.6%	4.3%	23.5%	1.0%	37.8%	8.8%
1994 % Released	25.3%	4.9%	23.0%	1.2%	36.3%	9.2%
1995 % Released	23.5%	5.3%	26.3%	1.1%	35.4%	8.5%

The percent of inmates released for drug offenses has increased significantly from 14.2% of total releases in 1989 to 26.3% in 1995. At the same time the percent of property offenders released fell from 51.2% of total released to 35.4% for the same time period.

The majority of inmates were released to supervision (parole or shock probation), rather than non-supervised (serve out). The percent of non-supervised has grown steadily since 1989.

TABLE 4: Inmates Released, Supevised vs. Non-Supervised

	Non-Supervised	Supervised
1989 Released	1006	2127
1993 Released	2165	3588
1994 Released	2387	3477
1995 Released	2688	3248
1989 % Released	32.1 %	67.9%
1993 % Released	37.6 %	62.4%
1994 % Released	40.7 %	59.3%
1995 % Released	45.3 %	54.7%

Ages at the time of release were as follows:

TABLE 5: Inmates Released By Age

	1993 Released	1994 Released	1995 Released	1993 % Released	1994 % Released	1995 % Released
Under 21	285	268	279	5.0%	4.6%	4.7%
21-24	973	1011	986	16.9%	17.2%	16.6%
25-29	1288	1205	1241	22.4%	20.5%	20.9%
30-34	1278	1222	1275	22.2%	20.8%	21.5%
35-39	909	986	986	15.8%	16.8%	16.6%
40-44	498	593	585	8.7%	10.1%	9.9%
45-49	251	296	295	4.4%	5.0%	5.0%
50 Over	271	283	289	4.7%	4.8%	4.9%

RECIDIVISM RATE FOR 1993 – 1995

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INMATES

The figures in Graph 2 indicate that the recidivism rate for males is approximately 7.3% higher than for females. The rate for blacks is 16% higher than for whites. The recidivism rate is highest for violent offender (39.7% in 1993 and 38.9% in 1994, 38.3% in 1995.) The rate for drug offenders rose 7.8% from 1993 to 1995.

TABLE 6: Recidivism Rate By Sex/Race

	Female	Male	Black	White
1993 Releases	537	5216	1699	4044
Returned	153	1767	771	1148
1993 Recidivism Rate	28.5%	33.9%	45.4%	28.4%
1994 Releases	538	5326	1846	3976
Returned	159	1877	842	1190
1994 Recidivism Rate	29.6%	35.2%	45.6%	29.9%
1995 Releases	623	5313	2107	3795
Returned	165	1797	913	1047
1995 Recidivism Rate	26.5%	33.8%	43.3%	27.6%

TABLE 7: Recidivism Rate By Crime Type

	Drug	Other	Property	Sex	Violent	Weapons
1993 Releases	1351	508	2175	249	1413	57
Returned	432	131	742	35	561	19
1993 Recidivism Rate	32.0%	25.8%	34.1%	14.1%	39.7%	33.3%
1994 Releases	1349	540	2128	288	1485	71
Returned	472	152	769	43	578	22
1994 Recidivism Rate	35.0%	28.1%	36.1%	14.9%	38.9%	31.0%
1995 Releases	1559	502	2100	314	1394	66
Returned	538	124	699	46	534	21
1995 Recidivism Rate	34.5%	24.7%	33.3%	14.6%	38.3%	31.8%

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RECIDIVISM RATE BY URBAN/NON-URBAN

Offenders in urban areas, regardless of sex, race or crime type usually have significantly higher recidivism rates than those offenders from non-urban areas. The largest difference for 1995 was 11.1% for drug offenders and 16.2% for violent offenders.

For purposes of this report, Boone, Kenton, Campbell, McCracken (Paducah), Warren (Bowling Green), Daviess (Owensboro), Jefferson, Fayette and Boyd (Ashland) are considered urban.

TABLE 8: Recidivism Rate By Urban/Non-Urban

	Male	Female	Black	White
1993 Urban	39.2	33.3	47.8	31.8
1993 Non-Urban	28.9	22.4	39.4	26.2
1994 Urban	41.0	34.7	46.7	35.5
1994 Non-Urban	29.6	21.3	42.7	26.2
1995 Urban	38.4	31.8	45.1	30.3
1995 Non-Urban	28.9	18.8	38.2	25.7

TABLE 9: Recidivism Rate by Urban/Non-Urban vs. Crime Type

	Drug	Other	Property	Sex	Violent	Weapon
1993 Urban	39.9	26.2	36.8	19.0	45.9	22.2
1993 Non-Urban	24.2	25.6	31.7	9.8	31.4	38.5
1994 Urban	40.9	30.5	40.0	20.0	46.0	30.3
1994 Non-Urban	27.5	26.6	32.6	11.3	29.9	31.6
1995 Urban	39.3	25.4	35.7	12.7	44.9	41.9
1995 Non-Urban	28.2	24.3	30.9	16.0	28.7	22.9

**RECIDIVISM RATES BY SUPERVISED/
NON-SUPERVISED AGE-CUSTODY LEVEL
RELEASE TIME**

Offenders under supervision i.e., parolees, recidivated at a rate of 45.8% for 1995, 28.1% higher rate than those who served out their sentence. Most parolees are returned for technical violations not commission of a new crime. Inmates under supervision can be returned to prison for violating rules of probation and parole while those who serve out their sentence can only be returned to prison if they are convicted of a new felony.

Recidivism is directly linked to the age of the offender at release, the younger the offender the more likely to return to prison. Inmates under 21 who were released in 1994 returned one half of their number to prison within 2 years.

Inmates released from community-based facilities were less likely to recidivate than those released from more secure institutions.

Over 55% of those released returning to prison did so within the first year. The highest rate of return was between 6 months and 1 year of release.

**TABLE 10: Recidivism Rates By
Type of Release**

	Serve-Out	Paroled
1993 # Released	2165	3588
1993 # Returning	380	1540
1993 % Returning	17.6%	42.9%
1994 # Released	2387	3477
1994 # Returning	449	1587
1994 % Returning	18.8%	45.6%
1995 # Released	2688	3248
1995 # Returning	475	1487
1995 % Returning	17.7%	45.8%

TABLE 11: Recidivism Rate By Age at Release

	Under 21	21-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 Over
1993 # Released	285	973	1288	1278	909	498	251	271
1993 # Returning	113	392	457	421	285	144	57	51
1993 % Returning	39.6%	40.3%	35.5%	32.9%	31.4%	28.9%	22.7%	18.8%
1994 # Released	268	1011	1205	1222	986	593	296	283
1994 # Returning	134	398	436	473	330	146	72	47
1994 % Returning	50.0%	39.4%	36.2%	38.7%	33.5%	24.6%	24.3%	16.6%
1995 # Released	279	986	1241	1275	986	585	295	289
1995 # Returning	127	354	448	451	314	160	54	54
1995 % Returning	45.5%	35.9%	36.1%	35.4%	31.8%	27.4%	18.3%	18.7%

TABLE 12: Recidivism Rate By Security Level at Release

	Halfway Houses	Local Jail	Maximum	Medium	Minimum
1993 # Released	964	913	162	2357	1357
1993 # Returning	295	216	86	821	502
1993 % Returning	30.6%	23.7 %	53.1%	34.8%	37.0%
1994 # Released	604	1398	174	2270	1400
1994 # Returning	193	373	84	861	514
1994 % Returning	32.0%	26.7 %	48.3%	37.9%	36.7%
1995 # Released	405	1738	163	2354	1276
1995 # Returning	135	407	82	877	461
1995 % Returning	33.3%	23.4 %	50.3%	37.3%	36.1%

TABLE 13: Return Date From Time of Release

	6 Months	1 Year	18 Months	2 Years
1993 # Released				
1993 # Returning	385	551	438	318
1993 % Returning	22.8%	32.6%	25.9%	18.8%
1994 # Released				
1994 # Returning	416	617	472	305
1994 % Returning	23.0%	34.1%	26.1%	16.9%
1995 # Released				
1995 # Returning	394	572	396	373
1995 % Returning	22.7%	33.0%	22.8%	21.5%

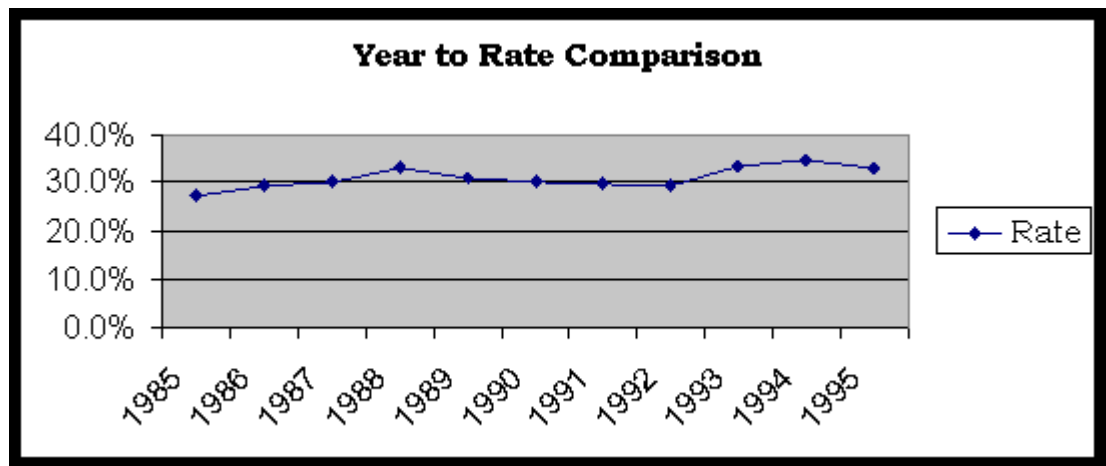
RECIDIVISM

Comparison of Recidivism Rates

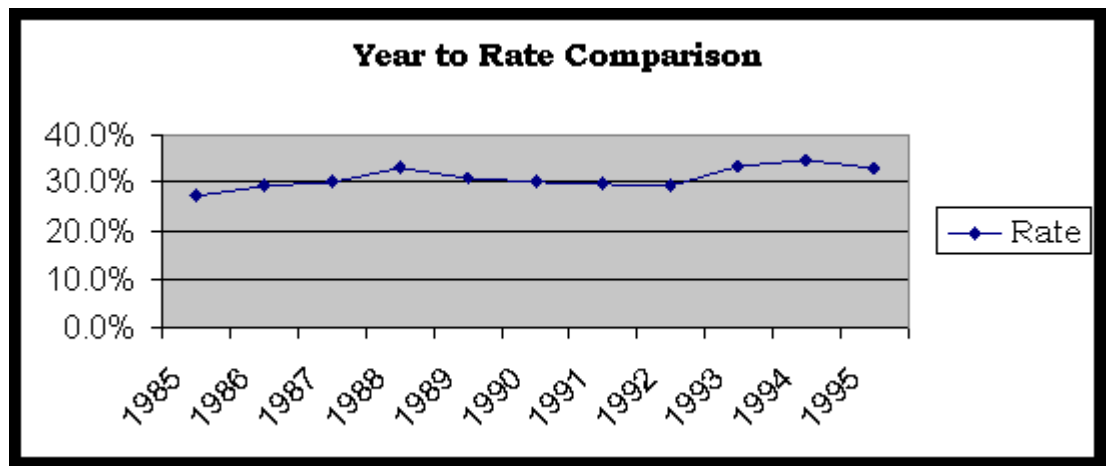
As the figures below indicate, the recidivism rates for Kentucky rose from 1985 through 1988, decreased slightly from 1989 through 1992, climbing steadily for 2 years, but decreased in 1995.

TABLE 14: Recidivism History

Year	Rate
1985	27.2%
1986	29.2%
1987	30.1%
1988	32.9%
1989	30.8%
1990	30.2%
1991	29.5%
1992	29.2%
1993	33.4%
1994	34.7%
1995	33.1%



Year	Rate
1985	27.2%
1986	29.2%
1987	30.1%
1988	32.9%
1989	30.8%
1990	30.2%
1991	29.5%
1992	29.2%
1993	33.4%
1994	34.7%
1995	33.1%



RECIDIVISM RATES BY NEW

SENTENCE/TECHNICAL VIOLATION

A 10 year history of recidivism rate shows a rise from 1985 through 1988, a small decrease from 1989 through 1992 and a rapid rise since 1992 leveling off in 1995. The rates between New Convictions and Technical Violations seems to be growing at the same rate, although technical violators are over twice the rate of New Convictions.

Violations that can cause a person to become technical violator include the use of alcohol or drugs, failure to report curfew violation, possession of firearms, absconding, and failure to attend a treatment meeting or maintain employment.

TABLE 15: Recidivism Rates By New Sentence/Technical

Year	New Convictions		Technical Violators	
	Number	Recidivism Rate	Number	Recidivism Rate
1985	287	10.3%	476	17.1%
1986	272	10.0%	525	19.3%
1987	247	9.1%	578	21.4%
1988	271	8.7%	76	24.3%
1989	256	8.3%	695	22.6%
1990	302	8.0%	846	22.3%
1991	310	7.4%	920	22.5%
1992	376	7.4%	1102	21.7%
1993	538	9.4%	1382	24.0%
1994	631	10.8%	1404	23.9%
1995	620	10.4%	1342	22.6%

COMPARISON OF 1989-1995

RECIDIVISM RATE

The largest growth in recidivism rates is for females, blacks and drug offenders. The recidivism rate for drug offenders has grown by nearly 69% in 6 years.

TABLE 16: Comparison of 1989 and 1995 Recidivisms Rate

	1989 Rate	1995 Rate
Female	20.2%	26.5%
Male	31.9%	33.8%

	1989 Rate	1995 Rate
Drug	20.4%	34.5%
Other	19.1%	24.7%
Property	33.8%	33.3%
Sex	16.9%	14.6%
Violent	34.9%	38.3%

	1989 Rate	1995 Rate
Black	36.7%	43.3%
White	28.4%	27.6%